

Big River Journey Fall 2011

What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) integrates river and classroom experiences that connect 4th-6th grade students to the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-themed activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey is aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards.

Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystem
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Confluence archaeology*
- Floodplain forest*
- Soldier hike*

* land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 4th-6th grade students.

Field trip location

Mississippi River, aboard the Anson Northrup riverboat, and at Fort Snelling State Park. Riverboat travel is between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, St. Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

Field trip dates & times

September 20-23, 26-27, & 29-30, 2011

Start times: 9:30 a.m. (at Harriet Island) or 10:00 a.m. (at Fort Snelling State Park). Boat trip duration: 1¾ hours; total field trip duration: 3½ hours.

All trips are **one-way trips** that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (not “*Historic Fort Snelling*”) as follows:

Board paddleboat at 9:30 at Harriet Island, St. Paul, for a 9:45 departure. Disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a session with staff from FSSP or other BRJ partner. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 1:00 p.m. Your buses will pick up students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

OR...

Arrive at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) Visitor Center at 10:00 for a land-based session with state park or other partner staff. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. **Paddleboat departure is at 12:00 noon** from FSSP. The trip concludes at 1:45 p.m. at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, St. Paul, where your return buses will load.

Participation requirements

1) Attend a Big River Workshop

Attendance is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended since 2001. At the “Big River Workshop” teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher’s Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

Workshop location:

Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (not *Historic Fort Snelling*) - enter the State Park from Hwy 5, “Post Road” exit, just southwest of the MSP airport

Workshop date:

Wed., Aug. 31, 2011, 8:30-1:00
Light refreshments provided.

Workshop registration:

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-290-3030, ext. 297 (Brian Goodspeed).

Workshop cost (donation):

\$20/person or \$30/school (non-refundable) is requested to help defray workshop expenses. Make out a check to “Mississippi National River & Recreation Area” and write “BRJ workshop donation” on the memo line. Send to:

Attn: Brian Goodspeed
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256

2) Preparation & follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (activities and resource materials provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (information provided at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations

Field trip fee: \$8.93*/student

The Padelford Packet Boat Co. handles field trip payments and will contact you for billing if your school is scheduled for a trip.

Scholarship rate: \$3.93*/student

Scholarships to reduce field trip cost, provided by the Mississippi River Fund (with support from Medtronic Foundation) are available for qualifying schools. Schools with at least 50% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program and/or at least 50% students of color qualify. Approved scholarship schools pay **\$3.93*/student**. Scholarship eligibility must be verified in writing by your principal. Schools arrange and pay for their own buses. Request a scholarship when you make your reservation (FFI: call Brian at 651-290-3030, ext-297).

(* includes port fee)



Big River Journey

Fall 2011

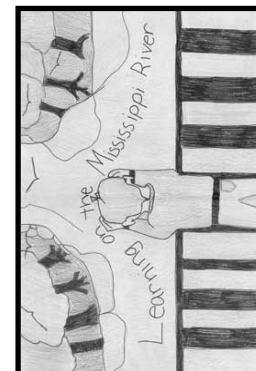
National & state award-winning
Mississippi River
field trips
since 1996

grades: 4-6

Coordinated by
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
(National Park Service)
in cooperation with the
Padelford Packet Boat Co.

Program partners
Center for Global Environmental Education
Friends of the Mississippi River
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Minnesota Historical Society
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
Mississippi River Fund
Padelford Packet Boat Co.
St. Paul Public Schools
Science Museum of Minnesota

www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers



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St. Paul, MN 55101-1256



BIG RIVER JOURNEY RESERVATIONS — FALL 2011

TO RESERVE A BIG RIVER JOURNEY TRIP FOR YOUR SCHOOL (Fall, 2011):

- 1) **Contact Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, x-297 for a trip/date reservation.** Fall reservations are first-come, first-served, in accordance with guidelines in this flyer (including 120 students maximum/trip; 240 max./school).
- 2) **Next, send or fax this form to the National Park Service at address below. We must receive a complete form to reserve your trip, and all teachers must attend (or have previously attended) a Big River Workshop.**

Trip Date (as provided by Brian Goodspeed) _____ **Grade(s) (circle):** 4 5 6

Trip arrival time (circle): 9:30 (at Harriet Island, St. Paul) 10:00 (at Fort Snelling State Park)

School _____ **Number of students (limits: 120/trip, 240/school)** _____

School address _____ **City, state, zip code** _____

Summer address _____ **City, state, zip code** _____

Contact Person _____ **Contact email** _____

Phone # _____ **Summer phone #** _____ **Fax #** _____

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must fill in teachers' names, or check below):

Wed, Aug 31, 2011 (8:30-1:00) Teachers who will attend: _____

I/we have attended workshop previously (since 2001): _____

NOTE: All BRJ teachers must attend the workshop. If all have attended previously since 2001, check here: _____

Are you requesting a scholarship (note requirements elsewhere in flyer)? YES / NO

Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:

Big River Journey Reservations
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
Fax: 651-290-3815

For further information: Call Brian Goodspeed at 651-290-3030, ext. 297
or visit our website at www.nps.gov/miss or www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers/brindex.htm.